

Emma F. Fessenden

GRACE CHURCH VISITOR

A MONTHLY DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE GRACE REFORMED CHURCH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL.


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A WORD WITH FELLOW CHRISTIANS.

BY D. W. SOUDER.

 O ver value the importance of the Sunday school as a means of the evangelization of the world is hardly possible. But many pastors and superintendents will tell you, that their Sunday-schools are always suffering from the want of teachers.

Now beloved Christian let me lay before you some reasons why you should engage in this good work.

There are many children in every community who must be religiously instructed in Sunday-schools, or not at all. In many cases the parents are ignorant, in many diffident, and in many totally devoid of a religious sentiment.

Sunday-schools cannot be sustained without teachers, it is the duty, then, of Christians to become teachers. It is your duty to assume that vacant seat surrounded by a neglected class. Better with all the toil and self denial to be thus surrounded in the Sunday school now than in that last awful day to be surrounded by a host of lost souls who might have been saved had they but heard from your lips the words of eternal life.

But you object that you are busily engaged during the week, and must rest on Sunday. Are you certain that your health would suffer from teaching? Is it the few minutes talk with the children that is so wearisome? Indeed is there not an absorbing interest in teaching which carries you through the time with surprising rapidity? Tell me, all ye who have been teachers, but who have resigned your post of duty, did you not enjoy yourselves more, and have a clearer, freer conscience than than you do now?

Is there any doubt that, should there be a salary offered, it would be a sufficient stimulus to induce many to teach where other inducements seem unavailing? It may be said that your necessities might lead you to teach for a salary. "Are the necessities of unconverted children of less consideration? Can not the Master of the vineyard pay

the laborer for his hire, even if he receives no specific salary for his Sunday-school toil?" Let him go forward in the path of duty and trust to God for the result. "Put thy trust in the Lord and do good, and verily thou shalt be fed."

No one can calculate the result for time and eternity of bringing one child under religious instruction. By the blessing of God upon faithful effort, that child may grow up to inherit the reward of those who "turn many to righteousness." He may become equally eminent in confounding the powers of darkness, and in extending the beams of Gospel light, in carrying dismay into the ranks of Satan, and in strengthening the hearts of God's despondent children.

But you say you are not qualified. "If you know more than the uncared-for, ignorant, teacherless child; if you can tell him about God and salvation, about Christ and His gospel, you are qualified to become his teacher." Be honest to yourself, faithful to your God, and faithful to those for whom God would have you to labor. "They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament, and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever."

As for those who still refuse to obey the Master's command, "Go ye and work in my vineyard," let me entreat them to ponder well this inspired warning, "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."

THE SALEM'S CHURCH, DUTCH RIDGE

This church is now undergoing a process of renovation and repairing. The improvements already made add very much to the appearance of the church, and when the work is completed we are certain that every one will be pleased with the alterations. The church needs a bell, which no doubt will be added to the list of improvements. When the church is completed, there will be a rededictory and Communion service. With a neat and comfortable house for worship, the people of this community will take increased interest and delight in the service of the sanctuary.

A SABBATH WITH GRACE CHURCH.

Sunday, the 27th of October, was a pleasant day in the history of Grace Reformed Congregation of Fort Wayne, it being the day on which the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was observed. Such occasions always possess a more than usual interest, coming as they do at intervals of several months apart, and in commemoration of the death of Christ, the dearest of all friends the Christian has. Hence it is that all good and faithful church members make it a point to be present on these occasions, and seriously regret their absence, if prevented by unavoidable circumstance.

It was a day of very special interest to us, as it was the first time we had the pleasure of meeting with the congregation in its devotional servicest and forming an acquaintance with its members. We had often read of its growth and strength in the Christian World, and were glad to see the progress it has made during the few years of its history. The Board of Missions has reason to rejoice in the work that has already been done, and in the prospect of its being self-supporting in the near future. We were rejoiced to see the fine accommodations in the cozy audience room, and the encouraging attendance. The number of about 100 at the communion table was very inspiring, in connection to the large and interesting Sabbath school that met just before the morning service, having an enrollment of about 200. We are glad to say our expectations were more than realized and repaid, and the progress that has been made is very inspiring and hopeful to the members. With a lot well selected, a comfortable chapel, a fine parsonage and a good attendance at the regular services and an active, faithful pastor at the head, with the hearty co-operation of the membership we look for still more blessed results in the near future. The mission has our best wishes and prayers for its success and prosperity. G. W. W.

The Sabbath-school is gradually growing larger. There were a number of new scholars enroled during the month of October. We hope to see still many others come in.

GRACE CHURCH VISITOR.

25 Cents per Year.

REV. A. K. ZARTMAN, A. M., - - EDITOR.

Board of Managers: REV. A. K. ZARTMAN, ELDER F. D. PAULUS, DEACON H. P. VORDERMARK.

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THE WINTER'S CAMPAIGN.

The season for aggressive church work is again at hand. Pastors and their co-laborers are devising plans for the winter's campaign. During the hot summer season there seems to be little opportunity for evangelistic work. Many of the families are out of the city, while many others become indisposed. During the winter months the minds and hearts of the people seem to divert more, either to matters of religion, or of amusement, and usually this is the harvest time for the churches. Almost every congregation passes through a special season of grace during the winter months, when the people of God are revived and refreshed in faith and heart, and many who before were strangers to God's saving grace are converted and gathered into the kingdom.

Every church has its particular field for work, as we believe the Lord of the harvest will open a door of usefulness to each and every church truly consecrated to the work of the Master. So we feel confident Grace Church has before it an open door, and the Lord bids us enter in and possess the harvest. There are many sheaves ripe for us. Many souls are now ready to hear the gospel invitation, and we feel assured are available for the churches of the city. The devoted, earnest, and active church will gather in these souls. The Lord of the harvest knows of but one rule of distinction among his servants, it is that to the faithful laborer he gives the ingathering of souls.

Great opportunities are open before Grace Church in this city where so many souls are outside of the church, and many we believe are anxious to find a home somewhere among God's people. Many persons are not so averse to religion as we sometimes think. They are many times nearer to the kingdom than we are willing to believe. They are only waiting for some warm-hearted Christian brother or sister to approach them in the spirit of the Master, and bid them a welcome into the kingdom, earnest entreaties and prayers may avail in their behalf, or a word for Jesus may touch their hearts and move them to yield to the master.

Grace Church must become fully awake to its opportunities and its responsibilities. Every member of the Church should know of his or her particular duty, and opportunity to win some soul for the Lord Jesus. The pastor intends to inaugurate plans for the winter's work at once. Our hearts yearn for souls, the love of Christ constraineth us. We feel confident the Church will rally to our support and hearty co-operation in this glorious work. The people of Grace Church we believe are ready to join hearts and hands as laborers in the great field of ripe harvest that lies before us.

Let us pray the Lord of the harvest to send labors into the field. Yes, may the burden of our prayers be that he may anoint us with the holy spirit, and send us out to bring in the sheaves. May the Lord Jesus send upon us a season of refreshing and reviving grace, and of the saving of many souls. This is our earnest prayer, and this is our hope.

REV. OSHIKAWA IN FORT WAYNE.

This brother arrived in the city on Thursday evening, Oct. 31st, and for the night was the guest of Rev. C. Schaff. On Friday morning he visited the Orphan's Home, accompanied by Rev. and Mrs. C. F. Crite, Rev. and Mrs. Kline, Rev. Schaff and family, and Rev. and Mrs. A. K. Zartman and daughter, Josie. Father and mother Rettig received their guests very kindly, and entertained them very cordially until a late hour in the afternoon. Immediately after dinner Rev. Oshikawa addressed the children of the home. He congratulated them upon their good fortune of falling into the charge of such a comfortable and pleasant home. He further reminded them of the duties they owed to their Father in Heaven and the church for the benefits they enjoyed. In the evening, our party, joined by Rev. C. M. Schaff, of Huntington, took tea with Rev. C. F. Krite, where we were again pleasantly entertained.

At 7:30 a mass meeting was held at the St. John's Reformed Church. Here the missionary spoke for more than one hour to a very large audience. His address was a very eloquent effort, and abounded in many very interesting statements. We were glad that so many of our Reformed people of the city were present to hear this address. We feel confident they could not help but enjoy the discourse and be profited by

it. The collection for the evening amounted to nearly \$44.

After the evening service, Rev. Oshikawa, and Rev. Krite and wife accompanied the pastor of Grace church and family to their home. An hour or more was spent in conversation. We were glad to have our Missionary with us for the night, and found him a very entertaining guest. On Saturday morning he took his departure for Cincinnati, where he was to speak on Sabbath. Rev. Oshikawa was delighted with his visit to Fort Wayne and with our Reformed people, and we are certain his company was enjoyable while in our midst, so that the delight was mutual. Oshikawa bears with him the prayers and affections of our people and a rich "God bless you," for his life work. We hope some time he may visit us again in our city.

RECEPTION AT THE PARSONAGE.

The pastor and lady, assisted by the ladies of the church will give a public reception at the parsonage Thursday evening, Nov. 7th. The members and friends of the church will undoubtedly enjoy to spend an evening with the pastor and family in their new and beautiful home. We hope to see all the members of Grace Church and all our friends at the parsonage on this occasion. Our doors are open to all, and we bid you come. The ladies appointed on entertainment are as follows: Mesdames Vordermark, Miller, Lambert, Vinig, Certia, Kline, Munn, Pierce, Bradley, Froxal, Ayster, Lonergan. Misses Emma Neireiter, Mollie McClure, Maggie Haverty.

A supper will be furnished by this committee, the receipts to be applied upon the parsonage house.

Sabbath evening talks at Grace Church by the pastor, on Home, Matrimony and kindred topics. The subject for Sabbath evening, Nov. 3, will be "The Man." Sabbath evening, Nov. 10, "The Woman." Other talks will follow upon the topics of "Marriage," "The Husband," "The Wife," "Seeking a Wife," "Seeking a Husband," "The Unmarried," "The Father," "The Mother," "The Young Man," "The Young Woman," etc. These are all topics of a living interest, and the pastor hopes to talk on them with a relish.

Dr. Williard's presence at our communion services added much to the interest of the meetings. His sermons were well received. We hope to see him with us often.

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Sabbath evening 7:30
Sunday School, 9:30
Teachers' meeting Sabbath evening . . . 6:30
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BRIEFS AND PERSONAL NOTES.

Reception at the parsonage Nov. 7th.
Thanksgiving dinner at Grace Church.

Mrs. Bolender has been quite ill for some time. We hope she may soon recover.

The catechetical class has entered upon its course. Others who wish to join the class should do so at once.

Remember the time for the reception at the parsonage, Thursday evening, Nov. 7. Supper from 5:30 to 9; 25 cents.

Rev. Chas. Schaff, of the St. Johns Church spent Sabbath October 20th, in Indianapolis, assisting in a missionary service.

If any of our subscribers do not receive their copies of the VISITOR please notify the pastor. We always mail the paper to all our subscribers.

Rev. C. F. Kriete, of the Salem Church, spent Sabbath, October 27, at Dayton, Ohio, assisting in a harvest home and missionary service.

The pastor's father and mother expect to visit Fort Wayne about the middle of this month. They have not visited the pastor's family for nine years.

Rev. Oshikawa says the heathen religion is not healthful, neither to body or soul. The religion of many Americans is not very conducive to health. We must have many heathen among us.

Dear brother or sister, of Grace Church how often have you attended the prayer meeting service of our church within the last six months? "Prayer is the Christian's vital breath. The Christian's native air."

The Normal class has fairly begun its course. The class is reading Dr. Swanders' book on the "Reformed Church" in connection with the regular course. Why not many more join this class of theology?

The pastor and lady celebrated their twelfth marriage anniversary Oct. 16th. They were kindly remembered by some

of their friends upon this occasion, in the presentation of some very handsome gifts. Many thanks.

Dr. Williads' talk to the Sabbath School on Sabbath, Oct. 27th, was excellent. Full of good counsel to the children, and many good hits for parents. Unfortunately not many of the parents were in hitting range.

The subscriptions taken last April to meet the current expenses of the church were taken for nine months, and will be due January 1. The consistory request that these obligations may all be paid during the month of December.

Rev. Dr. Kline and wife are visiting the family of Rev. C. F. Kriete at present. Dr. Kline is very much improved in health, and on Sabbath morning, October 27, preached for the people of the Salem Church. The sermon was eloquent and forcible.

The pastor is in receipt of a very interesting letter from Miss Lillie Kepler, who is now in Chicago, also a letter from J. L. Horn and family, now living at South Whitley, Ind. We are glad to hear from these parties and that have not forgotten Grace Church. The church has not forgotten them. They have our prayers and well-wishes.

One more issue of the VISITOR, and the first volume will be completed. Our experience in the editorial work has so far been very pleasant and quite profitable. The VISITOR has gone into very many families both in the church and outside, and we trust its monthly visits have not been in vain. We have received during the year many very encouraging words, and the substantial support of the Grace Church membership and of many of our friends. Shall the visits of our paper be continued during the next year? We think we shall not be mistaken in regard to the answer to this question. The *Grace Church Visitor* has come to be a matter of necessity and the church would be loathe to part with it.

MARRIAGE BELLS.

On Tuesday evening, October 22, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Little, 164 Madison street, occurred the marriage of their daughter, Sallie, to Mr. Aristide Grosjean. The ceremony was witnessed by some thirty or forty guests, all immediate friends of the bride and groom. The bridal party made a very fine and impressive appearance as they presented themselves at the altar to pledge to each other their troth. The occasion was both a happy and sol-

emn one. These young friends launch out upon life's voyage with kind greetings and well wishes from their many friends. After the ceremony the guests were served to a very bounteous supper, of which all heartily partook.

The bride and groom received many very fine and valuable presents from their parents and friends.

On the morning following the parties went on a trip to Detroit, where they tarried for the remainder of the week. In a short time they will take up their residence near Wallen, some five miles from the city. We hope to see them continuously at our church services, as well as in our social circle. They have the well wishes of the pastor and members of Grace Church.

THANKSGIVING DINNER.

The Thanksgiving dinner given by the ladies of Grace Church on last year was such a success that they have decided to undertake the enterprise again this year. With the experience of the past, we have no doubt the dinner this season will be a fine affair. It shall be a veritable Thanksgiving dinner, with plenty of everything and the choicest of everything, and the dinner will be furnished, all told, for the small sum of twenty-five cents.

There will be Thanksgiving services at the church in the morning at 10:30, and dinner from 12 to 3 p. m. Let all our families arrange to take their dinners at the church, and see to it that all their friends are also invited to come to this feast of good things. The following committees have been appointed to solicit for the dinner: From members in the country, Mrs. A. M. Henderson; city, east end, Mrs. J. Vordermark and Mrs. Miller; north side, Mrs. Certia and Mrs. Kline; west end, Miss Emma Neireiter and Miss Mollie Buckwalter; south side, Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Agster.

Committee on tables, Mrs. Ersig, Mrs. Vordermark, and Mrs. Miller; Committee on kitchen department, Mrs. McClure, Mrs. Conet, Mrs. Hassert, Mrs. Munn, Mrs. Little, Mrs. Certia, and Mrs. Griffith.

Let every person be ready to report at once what they can furnish, so as to make the work for the ladies as easy as possible.

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